

**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, AUGUST 1994**

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**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

Series updated since the July 1994 issue are: labour force; industrial disputes; housing finance; building approvals; building commencements; CPI; price indexes of house building materials; retail turnover; new motor vehicle registrations; and engineering construction activity.

Notable movements include:

- The trend series unemployment rate fell to 6.6 per cent in July 1994. This is the lowest this rate has been since July 1991 and compares favourably with the national rate of 9.7 per cent. Total employment growth has increased for the fourth consecutive month showing an increase of 1.9 per cent from the same period last year. The trend series employment participation rate in the ACT has remained steady at 72.2 per cent for the last three months. The national rate is also relatively steady with the July 1994 figure being 62.9 per cent. Long-term unemployment in both the ACT and Australia declined in June compared with May 1994 with the ACT showing a fall of 17.1 per cent compared to the national decline of 2.2 per cent. As a proportion of total unemployment, the long-term unemployed accounted for 27.7 per cent in the ACT and 36.2 per cent nationally in June 1994.
- The number of dwelling unit approvals in the ACT fell by 16.7 per cent in June compared with May 1994. The value of building approvals also fell in this period with new residential approvals falling 6.4 per cent and non-residential approvals declining by 11.1 per cent. The value of residential alterations and additions also declined with a fall of \$1.1 million, or 19.0 per cent in June 1994.
- There was \$277 million worth of building work commenced in the ACT in the March quarter 1994. This is an increase of 121.6 per cent from the December quarter 1993. This compares favourably to the national increase of 19.0 per cent for the same period.
- The All Groups CPI for the ACT increased by 0.5 per cent between the March and June quarters 1994, resulting in an annual increase of 1.5 per cent. The Food index fell in the June quarter 1994 for the ACT by 0.4 per cent. All other groups showed an increase in the quarter, the largest increase (2.1%) occurring in the Transport group mainly due to automotive fuel and vehicle insurance.
- Trend estimates of total retail turnover declined for the fourth consecutive month to \$167.2 million in June 1994. Hotels, liquor stores and licensed clubs increased by 0.8 per cent from June 1994 and 5.7 per cent from the same period last year.
- In original terms, the number of registrations of new motor vehicles reached its highest monthly level since August 1993, with 1,203 new motor vehicles being registered in the ACT in June 1994 compared with 1,259 in August 1993. The trend estimate for the ACT increased by 5.4 per cent in the 12 months to June 1994.
- In original, current price terms the value of engineering construction work done in the ACT in the March quarter 1994 fell by 4.5 per cent. This compares with decreases of 32.8 per cent (Northern Territory), 18.6 per cent (Queensland), 7.4 per cent (Tasmania), 4.9 per cent (Western Australia) and 4.6 per cent (South Australia) in the same period. The only States to show growth in the value of engineering construction work done in the March quarter 1994, were Victoria (20%) and New South Wales (7.6%).

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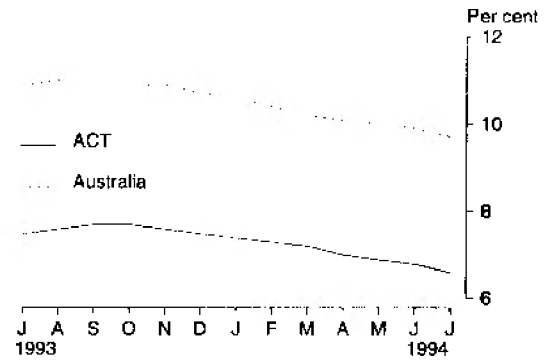
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## SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

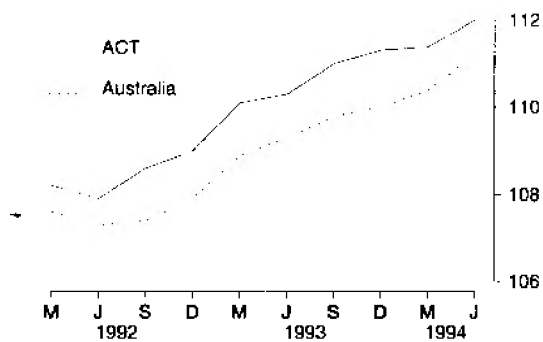
**LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED, TOTAL PERSONS  
AUSTRALIA**



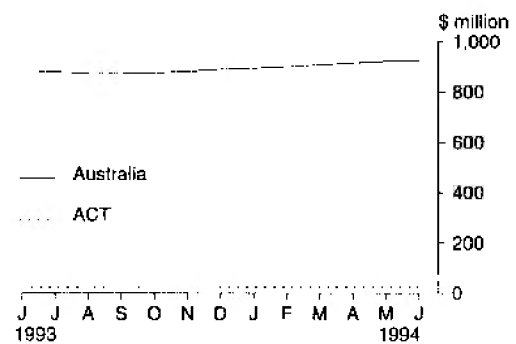
**LABOUR FORCE  
Trend unemployment rates**



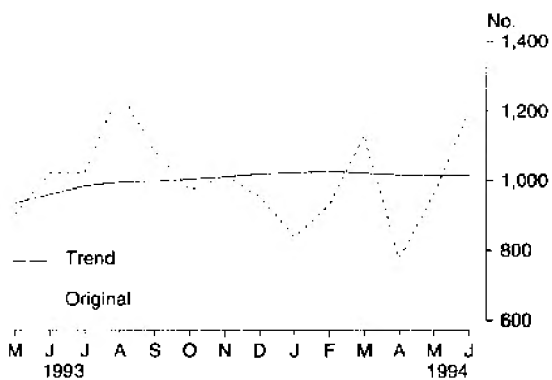
**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX  
(Reference base year 1989-90 = 100)**



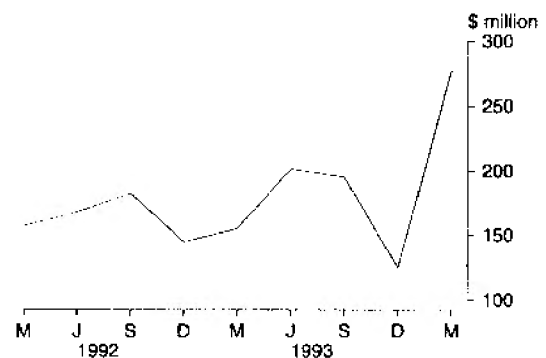
**RETAIL TURNOVER  
Department and general stores  
Trend series**



**NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS**



**VALUE OF TOTAL BUILDING COMMENCEMENTS**



**TABLE 1. AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS: SALES,  
DECEMBER QUARTER 1993/JUNE QUARTER 1995  
EXPECTED AGGREGATE CHANGE  
(per cent)**

<i>Period</i>	<i>Australian Capital Territory</i>	<i>Australia</i>
<b>Short-term</b>		
December 1993	1.1	3.6
March 1994	0.1	- 1.4
June 1994	1.6	1.9
September 1994	1.3	1.9
<b>Medium-term</b>		
September 1994	1.5	2.9
December 1994	2.7	3.1
March 1995	3.8	3.9
June 1995	6.2	3.3

**TABLE 2. AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, AUGUST 1994**

Indicator	Unit	Australian Capital Territory			Australia		
		Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)	Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)
<b>POPULATION, VITAL AND LABOUR</b>							
POPULATION, December qtr 93	'000	299.4	0.1	1.2	17 746.6	0.2	1.0
Natural increase	no.	775	- 2.5	- 12.1	32 918	2.6	—
Net migration	no.	- 523	- 623.0	- 5.3	4 123	- 76.3	42.6
Total increase	no.	252	- 71.8	- 23.6	37 041	- 25.1	3.4
<b>LABOUR FORCE, July 94 p</b>							
Original series							
Employed	'000	154.6	0.7	- 1.8	7 985.0	1.2	4.0
Unemployed	'000	10.5	1.0	- 11.0	803.9	- 4.2	- 9.8
Unemployment rate(a)	%	6.3	—	- 10.0	9.1	- 5.2	- 12.5
Participation rate(a)	%	72.3	0.6	1.1	63.0	0.5	1.3
Long-term unemployed (June 94)	'000	2.9	- 17.1	- 9.4	304.1	- 2.2	- 11.7
Long-term unemployed as percentage total unemployed (June 94)	%	27.7	- 13.2	1.5	36.2	- 1.1	- 4.0
Trend series							
Employed	'000	153.8	0.3	1.9	7 919.4	0.3	3.3
Unemployed	'000	10.9	- 1.8	- 10.7	847.2	- 1.2	- 9.8
Unemployment rate(a)	%	6.6	- 1.5	- 12.0	9.7	- 1.0	- 11.0
Participation rate(a)	%	72.2	—	- 0.8	62.9	0.2	0.6
JOB VACANCIES, May qtr 94	'000	1.9	26.7	18.8	49.4	7.6	63.6
<b>INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS, April 94</b>							
Working days lost	'000	0.2	200.0	200.0	25.6	- 58.2	236.8
Days lost per '000 employees (year ended April 94)	no.	82	2.5	720.0	97	3.2	- 44.6
<b>BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION</b>							
<b>HOUSING FINANCE, May 94</b>							
Secured commitments to individuals for Original series							
Construction of dwellings	\$m	13.4	8.1	31.4	846.2	11.2	40.1
Purchase of new dwellings	\$m	23.9	39.8	45.7	228.8	14.1	48.4
Purchase of established dwellings	\$m	70.5	2.0	17.9	3 501.4	14.2	31.4
Total new housing commitments	\$m	121.1	12.5	28.0	4 576.4	13.6	33.7
Seasonally adjusted series							
Total new housing commitments	\$m	108.5	5.5	21.9	4 329.8	- 1.9	29.9
Trend series							
Total new housing commitments	\$m	108.8	- 0.4	17.7	4 401.9	1.3	32.0
<b>BUILDING APPROVALS, June 94</b>							
Dwelling units	no.	299	- 16.7	- 20.7	17 478	- 6.2	13.3
Value of new residential	\$m	29.1	- 6.4	- 14.9	1 553.7	- 2.0	24.6
Value of residential alterations and additions	\$m	4.7	- 19.0	- 21.7	194.4	- 22.3	6.3
Value of non-residential	\$m	20.9	- 11.1	- 9.9	1 164.4	90.2	66.0
Value of total building	\$m	54.8	- 9.4	- 13.6	2 912.5	19.0	36.7
<b>BUILDING COMMENCEMENTS, March qtr 94</b>							
New houses	no.	374	- 10.3	- 19.0	28 759	- 9.1	7.1
Value of houses commenced	\$m	40.8	- 19.5	- 17.4	2 635.9	- 8.0	10.3
Value of non-residential building commenced	\$m	159.8	359.2	136.0	2 433.6	6.8	4.0
Value of total commencements	\$m	277.0	121.6	78.0	6 520.9	- 3.3	9.2
<b>PRICE INDEXES</b>							
Established house price index (March qtr 94) (1989- 90=100.0)		134.9	- 0.3	1.4	109.6	1.1	2.8
Price index of house building materials (May 94) (b)		151.6	0.1	5.1	153.8	0.1	3.7

TABLE 2. AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, AUGUST 1994 — *continued*

Indicator	Unit	Australian Capital Territory			Australia		
		Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)	Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)
<b>PRICES, WAGES AND CONSUMER SPENDING</b>							
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, June qtr 94 (1989-90=100.0)							
Food		111.4	-0.4	2.6	109.5	-0.3	1.4
Housing		99.3	0.5	-1.1	94.4	0.7	-0.8
Transport		117.8	2.1	2.6	115.2	1.8	2.8
All groups		112.0	0.5	1.5	111.2	0.7	1.7
<b>AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, February qtr 94</b>							
Original series							
Males	\$	712.5	3.2	7.0	625.6	1.1	2.4
Females	\$	490.4	2.6	4.3	416.8	2.0	1.7
Total persons	\$	601.3	2.9	6.2	529.0	1.4	2.1
Trend series							
Males	\$	706.5	2.3	6.5	621.4	0.2	2.4
Females	\$	482.2	0.2	3.4	411.0	-	1.8
Total persons	\$	594.4	1.5	5.4	523.3	0.1	2.1
<b>RETAIL TURNOVER, June 94</b>							
Original series							
Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists	\$m	52.0	-1.5	9.5	2 514.1	2.1	6.3
Department and general stores	\$m	23.4	-0.4	-4.5	905.7	0.9	3.1
Hotels, liquor stores and licensed clubs	\$m	11.9	-4.8	8.2	1 018.0	-0.4	10.2
All other stores	\$m	75.3	-1.8	1.3	3 954.6	0.3	7.7
Total	\$m	162.6	-1.8	3.4	8 392.4	0.8	7.1
Trend series							
Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists	\$m	53.9	-	7.4	2 547.1	0.3	3.7
Department and general stores	\$m	24.2	-	4.3	926.3	0.5	4.8
Hotels, liquor stores and licensed clubs	\$m	12.9	0.8	5.7	1 089.1	0.7	8.9
All other stores	\$m	76.2	-2.3	1.9	4 065.5	-	6.5
Total	\$m	167.2	-1.0	2.4	8 628.0	0.2	5.8
<b>TOURISM AND TRANSPORT</b>							
<b>HOTELS, MOTELS AND GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION, December qtr 93</b>							
Original series							
Room nights	no.	215.6	7.9	4.5	8 503.1	1.7	7.6
Takings at current prices	\$m	18.3	10.2	7.0	709.5	5.5	10.0
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	16.6	9.9	6.4	590.6	1.2	4.8
Seasonally adjusted series							
Room nights	no.	206.8	3.6	3.7	8 378.4	4.2	7.5
Takings at current prices	\$m	17.6	5.4	6.0	689.8	6.2	9.8
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	16	6.0	5.3	574.3	1.7	4.7
Trend series							
Room nights	no.	208.5	7.1	3.7	8 338.4	3.0	7.4
Takings at current prices	\$m	17.6	6.0	6.7	686.0	4.7	9.7
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	15.5	2.0	5.4	570.4	0.3	4.4
<b>NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS, June 94</b>							
Motor vehicles	no.	1 203	25.1	17.7	57 950	8.9	8.7
Seasonally adjusted motor vehicles	no.	1 130	15.8	25.7	52 133	2.2	9.3
Trend motor vehicles	no.	1 015	-0.1	5.4	51 466	1.6	12.2
<b>INTERSTATE ROAD FREIGHT MOVEMENT, March qtr 94</b>							
Originating	'000 tonnes	45.8	-1.7	14.5	4 492.3	-3.6	-0.2
Receiving	'000 tonnes	134.4	-1.2	-25.7	4 492.3	-3.6	-0.2
<b>AGGREGATE INDICATORS</b>							
<b>STATE ACCOUNTS, March qtr 94</b>							
Original series							
Gross State product at current prices	\$m	2 226	-9.4	6.3	104 131	-8.6	6.0
State final demand at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 847	-6.3	5.4	92 402	-7.7	4.2
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 266	-9.9	3.7	64 396	-7.9	5.1
Private gross fixed capital expenditure and components	\$m	241	-16.9	-0.8	14 914	-10.6	9.3
Trend series							
Gross State product at current prices	\$m	2 358	1.1	6.3	108 350	1.5	6.0
State final demand at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 989	0.6	2.5	97 162	1.3	3.2
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 345	1.4	5.8	67 189	1.6	5.4
Private gross fixed capital expenditure and components	\$m	273	-1.4	-8.4	15 669	1.2	4.7

(a) Change shown in terms of percentage points. (b) A.C.T. data 1986-87 = 100.0, Australia 1985-86 = 100.0.

Source: ABS Catalogue Nos: 3101.0, 5242.0, 5609.0, 6203.0, 6302.0, 6321.0, 6354.0, 6401.0, 6408.0, 6416.0, 8501.0, 8634.0, 8635.8, 8731.0, 8752.0 and 9303.0.

TABLE 3. ACT IN RELATION TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA

<i>Indicator</i>		<i>Latest period</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
<b>LABOUR FORCE</b>											
Employed persons (original)	'000	July 94 p	2 666.4	2 004.7	1 435.7	649	802.1	195.9	76.5	154.6	7 985
Unemployment rate (trend)	%	July 94 p	9.7	10.4	9.1	10.6	8.3	10.6	7.1	6.6	9.7
<b>BUILDING APPROVALS</b>											
Dwelling units approved	no.	June 94	5 106	2 705	5 117	1 179	2 655	306	111	299	17 478
Value of non-residential building approved	\$	June 94	262.4	608.7	161	31.3	63.7	11.6	4.8	20.9	1 164.4
Value of all buildings approved	\$	June 94	861.3	904.9	625.1	126.7	284.4	38	17.4	54.8	2 912.5
<b>ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION</b>											
Value of engineering construction work done	\$m	Mar. qtr 94	1 053.4	609.8	583.3	179.2	443.8	55.4	41.5	40	3 006.4
<b>AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS</b>											
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	\$	Feb. qtr 94	624.50	601.70	580.70	598.40	608.30	592.70	630.40	703.40	608.90
<b>RETAIL TRADE</b>											
Retail turnover (trend)	\$m	June 94	3 017.5	2 095.8	1 527.5	644.4	873.3	215.2	n.p.	167.2	8 628
<b>HOTELS, MOTELS &amp; GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION</b>											
Room nights occupied (trend)	no.	Dec. qtr 93	2 826.2	1 286.1	2 254.5	480.4	753.5	251.6	277.7	208.5	8 338.4
<b>NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS</b>											
Trend	no.	June 94	18 006	11 676	10 258	3 434	5 367	1 129	581	1 015	51 466
<b>CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1989-90 = 100.0)</b>											
Food		June qtr 94	109.4	107.9	110.2	113	109.9	112.2	113.1	111.4	109.5
Housing		June qtr 94	95.9	92.4	100.7	91.9	87.8	94.2	104.5	99.3	94.4
Transport		June qtr 94	112.7	117.5	113.8	118.5	116	112.8	113.9	117.8	115.2
All Groups		June qtr 94	110	112	111.5	114.4	109.1	112.4	112.4	112	111.2

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